SC/ST Judges in Courts

359. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the persons belonging to SC/ST who have been appointed as Judges of the High Courts/Supreme Court alongwith the date of appointment in each case; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint more Judges belonging to SC/ST in the High Courts where there is none at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 1-11-1986, there were 6 Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and 1 Judge belonging to Scheduled Tribes in various High Courts, as per information received from the Registries. There was 1 Judge belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the Supreme Court.

It would not be advisable, in the public interest, to disclose their identity. Information regarding caste and community is not required at the time of their appointment.

(b) The Government have addressed the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and minorities, and women, who are suitable for appointment as Judges of High Courts so as to give them better representation on the High Courts than that exists at present.

More Powers to Chief Election Commissioner

360. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the request of the Chief Election Commissioner of India for giving him more powers for conducting free and fair elections in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As part of the proposals for electoral reforms, the Chief Election Commissioner has suggested *inter-alia* measures for prevention of booth capturing, suitable provisions to enable the Election Commission to order re-poll, hold bye-elections, defining political parties supported by measures requiring their compulsory registration, maintenance and audit of their accounts, etc., which will give him more powers.

No final decision has been taken on these proposals. Government's intention is to hold consultations with the political parties before taking a final decision.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Tyres

361. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to import tyres;

(b) if so, what are the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the indigenous production of tyres is not enough to meet the increasing demand in the country;

(d) if so, what is the estimated demand, the production capacity in different manufacturing units and the actual production at the end of 1986; and

(e) whether there is any shortfall in the production of tyres, if so, what are the reasons therefor?